

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W

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R 311604Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5476

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 1732

LONDON FOR SEITZ

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, SL

SUBJ: STEVENS CALLS FOR ONE PARTY STATE

1. A WEEKEND EMERGENCY NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE RULING ALL PEOPLES CONGRESS (APC) HELD MAY 28-29, ENDORSED PRESIDENT STEVENS' CALL FOR THE CREATION OF A ONE PARTY SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT THE TRIBAL FRAGMENTATION OF SIERRA LEONE. IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE CONVENTION STEVENS CLAIMED THAT THE OPPOSITION SIERRA LEONE PEOPLES PARTY (SLPP), WHICH GAINED FIFTEEN SEATS IN THE 100 PERSON SIERRA LEONE PARLIAMENT AND STANDS TO GAIN PERHAPS FIVE ADDITIONAL SEATS WHEN ELECTIONS ARE HELD IN BO DISTRICT, DID NOT CONSTITUTE A POLITICAL PARTY SINCE "IT HAD NO RECOGNIZED LEADER AND NO SECRETARY-GENERAL". STEVENS COMPARED THE SLPP PARLIAMENTARIANS TO "TROOPS THROWN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTO BATTLE WITHOUT A GENERAL" AND CLAIMED ALL THAT WAS NEEDED TO LEGITIMIZE A ONE-PARTY STATE IS TO BRING THE SLPP PARLIAMENTARIANS "INTO OUR CAMP".

2. THE CONVENTION ALSO CALLED FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE INTO THE NATIONAL POLITICAL FRAMEWORK, THE CREATION OF A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE THE ACTIVITIES OF

CERTAIN EDUCATORS, REVISION OF THE PRICE CONTROL BOARD, CREATION OF A SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, AND THE CONDEMNATION OF APARTHEID AND MINORITY REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. OTHER RESOLUTIONS CALLED FOR TOWN COUNCILS TO BE ELECTED RATHER THAN APPOINTED AND CREATION OF A COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE AND ASSESS DAMAGES CAUSED DURING RECENT RIOTS. RESOLUTIONS PERTAINING TO THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE APC WERE THE APPOINTMENT OF PARTY SECRETARIES IN EACH OF THE TWELVE ELECTION DISTRICTS TO "BE THE WATCH-DOG OF THE PARTY AT DISTRICT LEVEL", THE INCORPORATION OF WOMEN AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS INTO ALL ORGANS OF THE PARTY, AND THE APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND PROPAGANDA SECRETARY.

3. THE CONVENTION ELECTED EGERTON T. KAMARA, A FORMER SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE SIERRA LEONE LABOR CONGRESS AND MOST RECENTLY PERSONNEL MANAGER OF THE NOW DEFUNCT DELCO MINING CORPORATION, TO REPLACE PRIME MINISTER KAMARA-TAYLOR AS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE PARTY, AND SAIDU A. FOFANAH, FORMERLY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, TO SUCCEED VICE PRESIDENT S.I. KOROMA AS NATIONAL ORGANIZING AND PROPAGANDA SECRETARY. STEVENS EXPLAINED THE DECISION TO ELECT FULL-TIME PARTY OFFICIALS WAS DUE TO THE HEAVY GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES CARRIED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER.

4. BEGIN COMMENT: STEVENS' MOTIVATION IN SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A ONE PARTY STATE IS COMPLEX AND NOT SOLELY RELATED TO RETAINING POWER, ALTHOUGH THAT PLAYS A LARGE PART. THE TRADITIONAL MENDE-TEMNE DISPUTE HAS RE-EMERGED UNDER THE FACADE OF POLITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTY RIVALRY AND DOES THREATEN THE LONG TERM STABILITY OF SIERRA LEONE. UNFORTUNATELY, STEVENS SEEMS TO BE ATTACKING THE SYMPTOMS AND NOT THE CAUSE OF THE CONFLICT. THE MENDES, THE LARGEST SINGLE TRIBE IN SIERRA LEONE, ARE NOT INTERESTED IN JUST SHARING POWER; THEY WANT PRE-DOMINANCE, SOMETHING THE TEMNES, MOST CREOLES, AND THE APC COALITION OF NORTHERN TRIBES FEAR. WITH THE ARMED FORCES HE CONTROLS STEVENS CAN IMPOSE A TEMPORARY ONE-PARTY STATE, BUT HOW LONG IT WILL LAST WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON THE CONTINUOUS THREAT OF FORCE.

5. THE ELECTIONS OF E.T. KAMARA AND S.A. FOFONAH MUST BE CONSIDERED A POLITICAL DEFEAT FOR PRIME MINISTER KAMARA-TAYLOR AND A VICTORY FOR VICE PRESIDENT KOROMA. BOTH MEN ARE CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH KOROMA. ACCORDING TO A WELL-INFORMED SOURCE, KAMARA-TAYLOR BITTERLY OPPOSED HIS REPLACEMENT AS PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL IN LATE NIGHT APC CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 28, BUT WAS OUT-MANUEVERED BY S.I. KOROMA WHO NOT ONLY ANNOUNCED HIS OWN WILLINGNESS TO STEP DOWN AS APC ORGANIZING AND PROPAGANDA SECRETARY, BUT ALSO WITHDREW HIS FIRST

CANDIDATE FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL POST. S.A.T. KOROMA,
IN ORDER TO PERMIT KAMARA, A LIMBA AS IS KAMARA-TAYLOR, TO
BE ELECTED. END COMMENT.
NORTH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, SL, (STEVENS, SIAKA P)
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